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THE MOST SUPERNATURAL SUPERHERO OF ALL!
GHOST RIDER
WELCOME TO HOLLYWOOD, SPOOK-MAN!
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO PLAY YOUR DEATH SCENE!
AND LOOK WHO'S BACK, FAITHFUL ONE-- KAREN PAGE DAREDEVIL'S LOST LOVE!
THE TRAPSTER STRIKES!
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IMPOSSIBLE?

"Every successful bodybuilder has got to use the most advanced bodybuilding methods available. UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING offers the best! Using UNIVERSAL methods, I have made excellent gains!"

Brian Eastman

NOT FOR THE SUPER BODYBUILDING SYSTEM!

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MOST MEN NEVER REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL FOR MUSCULARITY. Why? Probably because they've never come across or taken advantage of a training program quite like the one we offer here at UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING. Our course has the ULTIMATE MASTERPLAN for TOTAL BODY DEVELOPMENT!

Very few men are satisfied with the way they look at present. They know themselves that they wouldn't mind having a REALLY MASCULINE BODY — one that will "turn on" the girls and make the guys envious.

WITH UNIVERSAL METHODS, YOU CAN BREAK OUT OF YOUR "OLD" SELF, AND TRANSFORM YOUR BODY INTO AN ATTENTION-GETTER!!! WE GUARANTEE TO IMPROVE YOUR BODY FAR BEYOND WHAT YOU'VE EVER BELIEVED POSSIBLE! We have perfected bodybuilding training techniques to the extreme, so that we can offer you the fastest gains possible. If you're thin and underweight, you'll be astonished at how quickly muscles appear. If you're overweight, we can help you to trim down the fat and replace it with rock-hard muscle. We'll tone up your abdominal area, and show you how to obtain a well-defined and impressive waist.

Add 2 or 3 inches to your arms, 4 or 5 inches to your chest — your rewards will be in direct proportion to your effort and accomplishments — nobody sets a limit to your success.

In the time it takes to complete this 12 lesson course, we can guarantee you a muscular foundation fantastic enough to be developed to your fullest potential!!! You can go far beyond mere "improvement" with the Advanced Training Techniques included in this course. We can give you the firm, rippling, muscular body of a physique star!!! Send in for our FREE COLORFUL BROCHURES TODAY (fantastic information about our course — loaded with unbelievable photographs). You won't regret it!!!

BE GREAT - BE SOMEBODY SPECIAL!

Improve your health, self-confidence and your outlook on life as you become more muscular. Regardless of your age, height or present build, we'll help you build a fabulous body. Thousands of people have taken this course with fantastic results — why not you? Whatever you look like today, we can improve on it. We guarantee it!!!

- ☐ **ARMS** — Develop big, powerful arms—the kind girls love to be held in! Command respect from everyone you meet!
- ☐ **CHEST** — Is your chest sunken and unimpressive? No more! It's easy to build a massive chest. You can measure 45, 47, or even 50 inches!
- ☐ **BACK** — Develop your upper back, and get that outstanding "V-Shape!" Often within one week you'll be able to see that wedge formation begin to take shape — it's a real attention-getter!
- ☐ **SHOULDERS** — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!
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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the seering touch of hell fire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER! ™

TONY ISABELLA (WRITER) * GEORGE TUSKA (ARTIST) * VINCE COLLETTA (INKER) * I.WATANABE (LETTERER) * I. VARTANOFF (COLORIST) * LEN WEIN (EDITOR)

YOU'VE GOT A SECOND CHANCE, JOHNNY BLAZE!

REDDISH SMOKE RISES CLOYINGLY INTO THE EVENING SKY. A GHOSTLY BI-PLANE SLOWLY DISAPPEARS INTO A SHIMMERING MOON--NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

THE PHANTOM EAGLE HAS FOUGHT AND WON HIS FINAL DOGFIGHT--AGAINST THE MAN WHO MURDERED HIM SIXTY YEARS AGO.*

HIS VENGEANCE HAS COST ONE YOUNG MAN, JOEL TANNER, HIS GRANDFATHER --AND ANOTHER, JOHNNY BLAZE, VERY NEARLY HIS LIFE.

NO ONE CHEERS THE EAGLE'S VICTORY.

THEY JUST FEEL KIND OF SICK.

WITH VON REITBERGER DEAD, THE EAGLE CAN GO TO HIS ETERNAL REST.

I HOPE HE HAS BAD DREAMS.

*GHOST RIDER #12--LEN.

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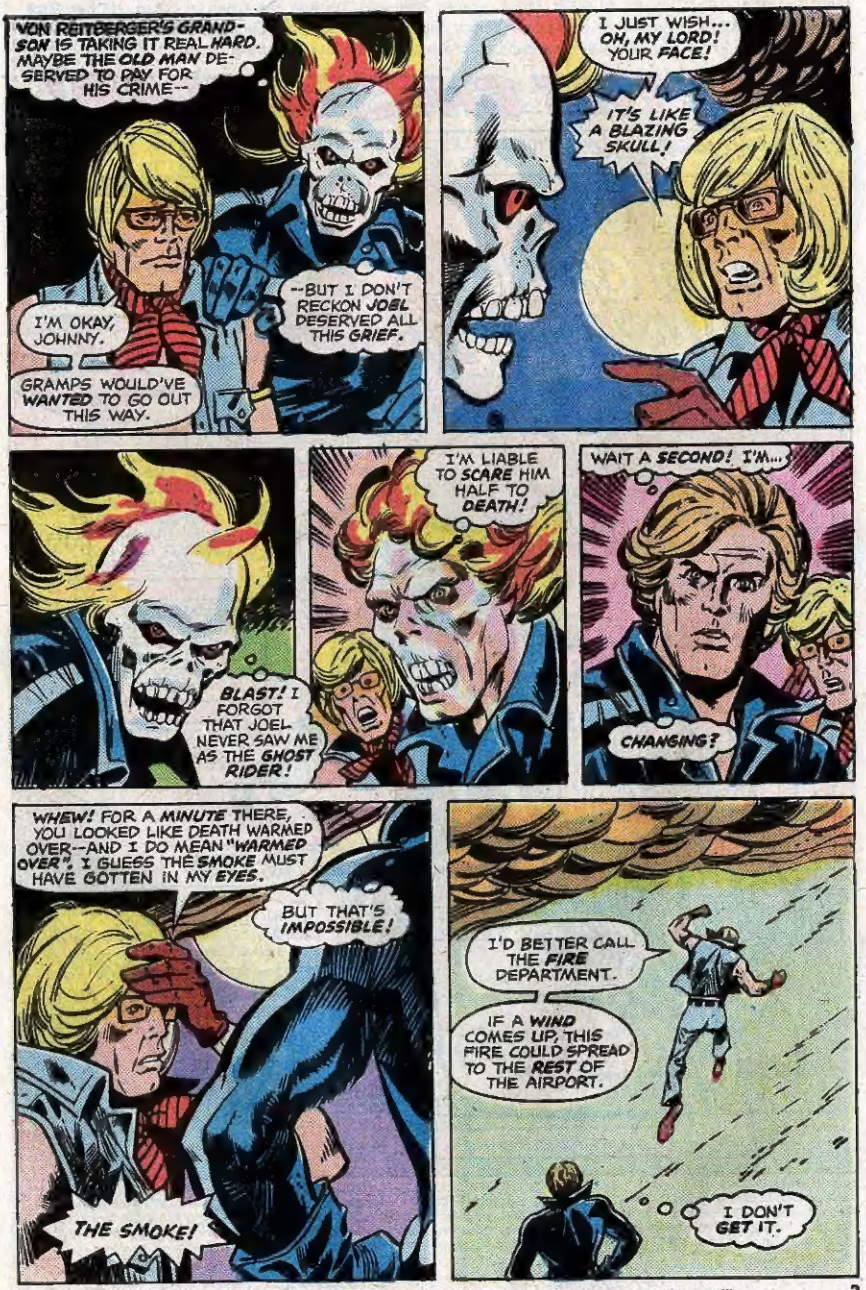
VON REITBERGER'S GRANDSON IS TAKING IT REAL HARD. MAYBE THE OLD MAN DESERVED TO PAY FOR HIS CRIME--
--BUT I DON'T RECKON JOEL DESERVED ALL THIS GRIEF.
I'M OKAY, JOHNNY.
GRAMPS WOULD'VE WANTED TO GO OUT THIS WAY.
I JUST WISH... OH, MY LORD! YOUR FACE!
IT'S LIKE A BLAZING SKULL!
BLAST! I FORGOT THAT JOEL NEVER SAW ME AS THE GHOST RIDER!
I'M LIABLE TO SCARE HIM HALF TO DEATH!
WAIT A SECOND! I'M...
CHANGING?
WHEW! FOR A MINUTE THERE, YOU LOOKED LIKE DEATH WARMED OVER--AND I DO MEAN "WARMED OVER". I GUESS THE SMOKE MUST HAVE GOTTEN IN MY EYES.
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THE SMOKE!
I'D BETTER CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.
IF A WIND COMES UP, THIS FIRE COULD SPREAD TO THE REST OF THE AIRPORT.
I DON'T GET IT.

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IT'S STILL NIGHT, RIGHT?
AND I TURN INTO THE GHOST RIDER EVERY NIGHT--ALL NIGHT, RIGHT?
HAS SOMEBODY SLIPPED ME SOME LOCO WEED?
THAT TRUCK!
IT'S BOUND TO HAVE--
--A REAR VIEW MIRROR!
OH, WOW!
IT'S TRUE!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
IS THIS SOME SCHEME OF SATAN'S?
OR AM I JUST PLAIN CRACKING UP?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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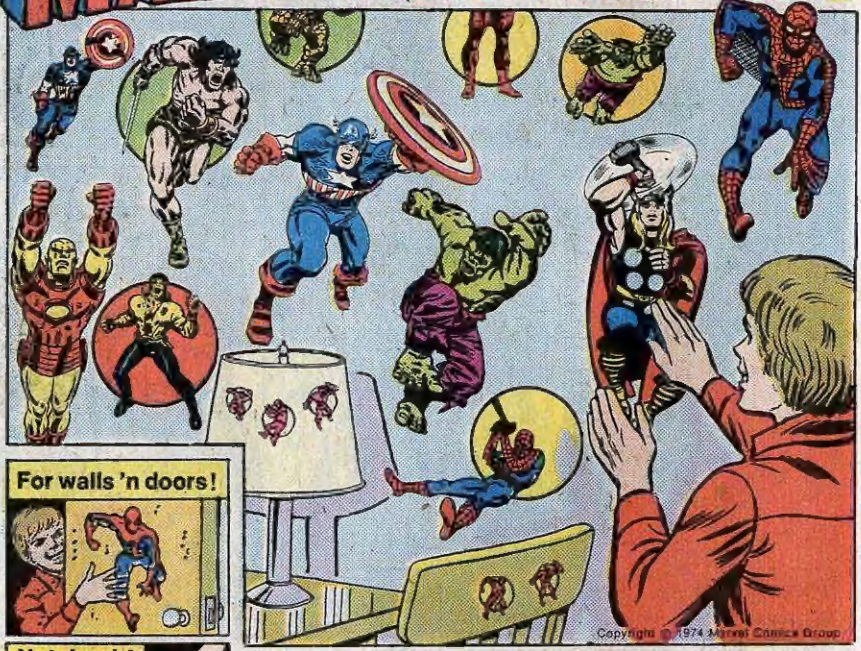

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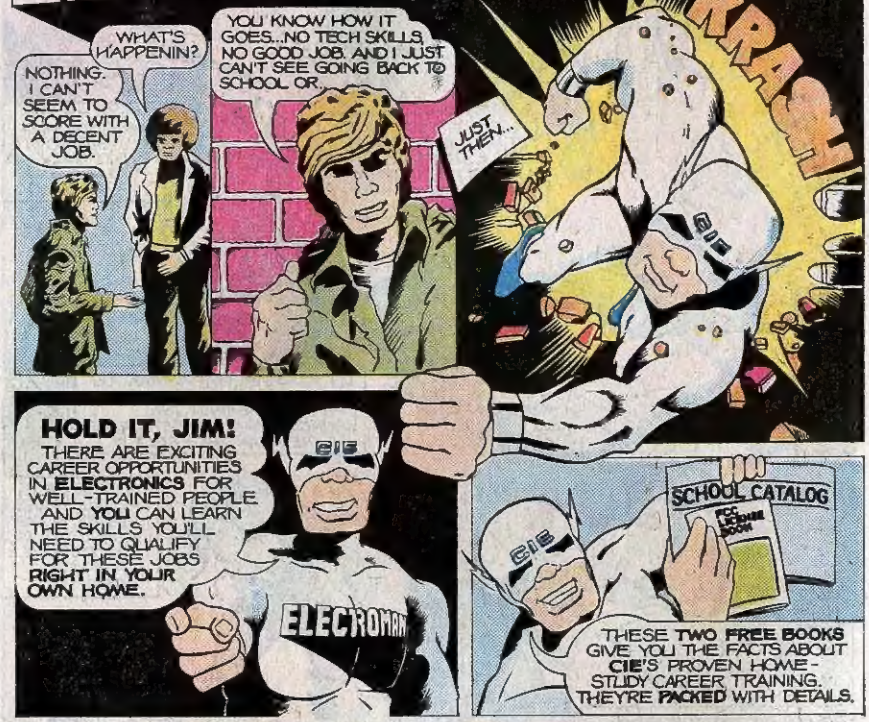
WHAT'S HAPPENIN?
NOTHING. I CAN'T SEEM TO SCORE WITH A DECENT JOB.
YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES...NO TECH SKILLS, NO GOOD JOB. AND I JUST CAN'T SEE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL OR...
JUST THEN...
KRASH!

HOLD IT, JIM!
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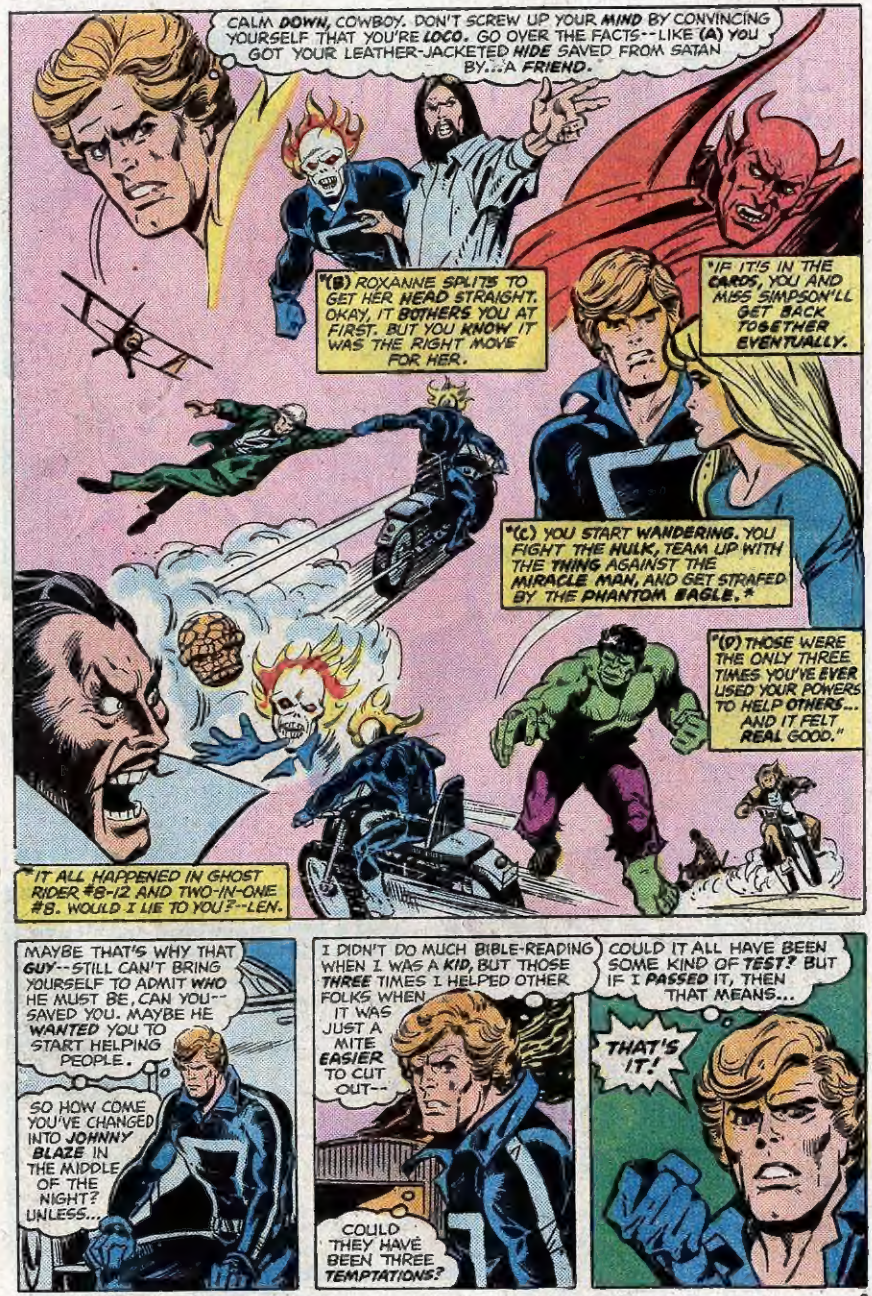
CALM DOWN, COWBOY. DON'T SCREW UP YOUR MIND BY CONVINCING YOURSELF THAT YOU'RE LOCO. GO OVER THE FACTS--LIKE (A) YOU GOT YOUR LEATHER-JACKETED HIDE SAVED FROM SATAN BY...A FRIEND.
"(B) ROXANNE SPLITS TO GET HER HEAD STRAIGHT. OKAY, IT BOTHERS YOU AT FIRST. BUT YOU KNOW IT WAS THE RIGHT MOVE FOR HER.
"IF IT'S IN THE CARDS, YOU AND MISS SIMPSON'LL GET BACK TOGETHER EVENTUALLY.
"(C) YOU START WANDERING. YOU FIGHT THE HULK, TEAM UP WITH THE THING AGAINST THE MIRACLE MAN, AND GET STRAFED BY THE PHANTOM EAGLE.*
"(D) THOSE WERE THE ONLY THREE TIMES YOU'VE EVER USED YOUR POWERS TO HELP OTHERS... AND IT FELT REAL GOOD."
"IT ALL HAPPENED IN GHOST RIDER #8-12 AND TWO-IN-ONE #8. WOULD I LIE TO YOU?"--LEN.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THAT GUY--STILL CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO ADMIT WHO HE MUST BE, CAN YOU--SAVED YOU. MAYBE HE WANTED YOU TO START HELPING PEOPLE.
SO HOW COME YOU'VE CHANGED INTO JOHNNY BLAZE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT? UNLESS...
I DIDN'T DO MUCH BIBLE-READING WHEN I WAS A KID, BUT THOSE THREE TIMES I HELPED OTHER FOLKS WHEN IT WAS JUST A MITE EASIER TO CUT OUT--
COULD THEY HAVE BEEN THREE TEMPTATIONS?
COULD IT ALL HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF TEST? BUT IF I PASSED IT, THEN THAT MEANS...
THAT'S IT!

IT'S A "NIGHTMARE IN NORWAY" AS JOHN KOWALSKI LEARNS ONCE MORE THAT WAR IS HELL!

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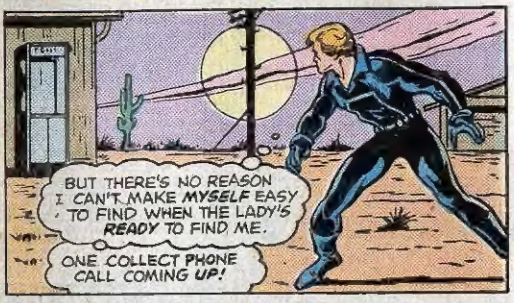
FREE! WHAT A RIGHT PRETTY WORD!
ROCKY SHOULD HEAR THE GOOD NEWS, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY WAY OF FINDING HER.
BESIDES, I OWE HER THE CHANCE TO HASSLE OUT HER OWN PROBLEMS.



WHEN THE STUNT-MASTER AND I TEAMED UP TO TACKLE AQUARIUS, HE OFFERED ME A JOB AS HIS STUNTMAN ON HIS TV SHOW.*
HIS PRODUCERS THINK HE'S TOO VALUABLE A "PROPERTY" TO RISK HIS NECK DOING HIS OWN STUNTS.
IF THEY EVER SAW THAT DUDE RIDE A BIKE, THEY'D KNOW THERE WAS NO RISK INVOLVED.
I DON'T HANKER TO BECOME A "PROPERTY", BUT I'M NEARLY BUSTED AND THE BREAD MUST BE PRETTY GOOD.
AND A JOB LIKE THAT'LL MAKE IT SIMPLE FOR ROCKY TO FIND ME WHEN SHE'S READY.
*GHOST RIDER #7 AND #8--LEN.

OPERATOR, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A COLLECT CALL TO THE STUNT-MASTER IN LOS ANGELES.
THE STUNT-MASTER, HUH? GEE, I'M SORRY. HIS LINE IS BUSY. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK TO JOHNBOY INSTEAD?

BLAST! I'M SURE SOME KIND OF FOOL TO THINK THERE'D BE A LISTING UNDER HIS SCREEN NAME...AND I NEVER GOT AROUND TO ASKING HIM HIS REAL NAME!
SLAM!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RIDE TO LOS ANGELES AND TRY TO CATCH HIM AT THE STUDIO THAT FILMS HIS SHOW.
IF I CAN MAKE IT TO L.A. IN TWO DAYS, I'LL ONLY HAVE TO EAT AT McDONALD'S SIX TIMES.
FIVE, IF I'M LUCKY.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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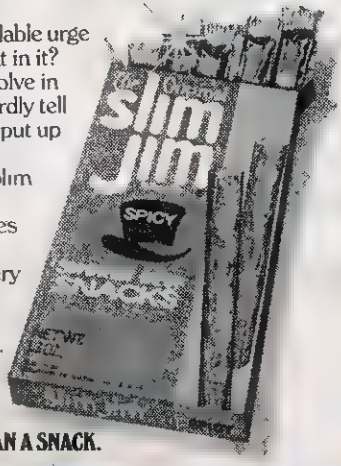
You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.



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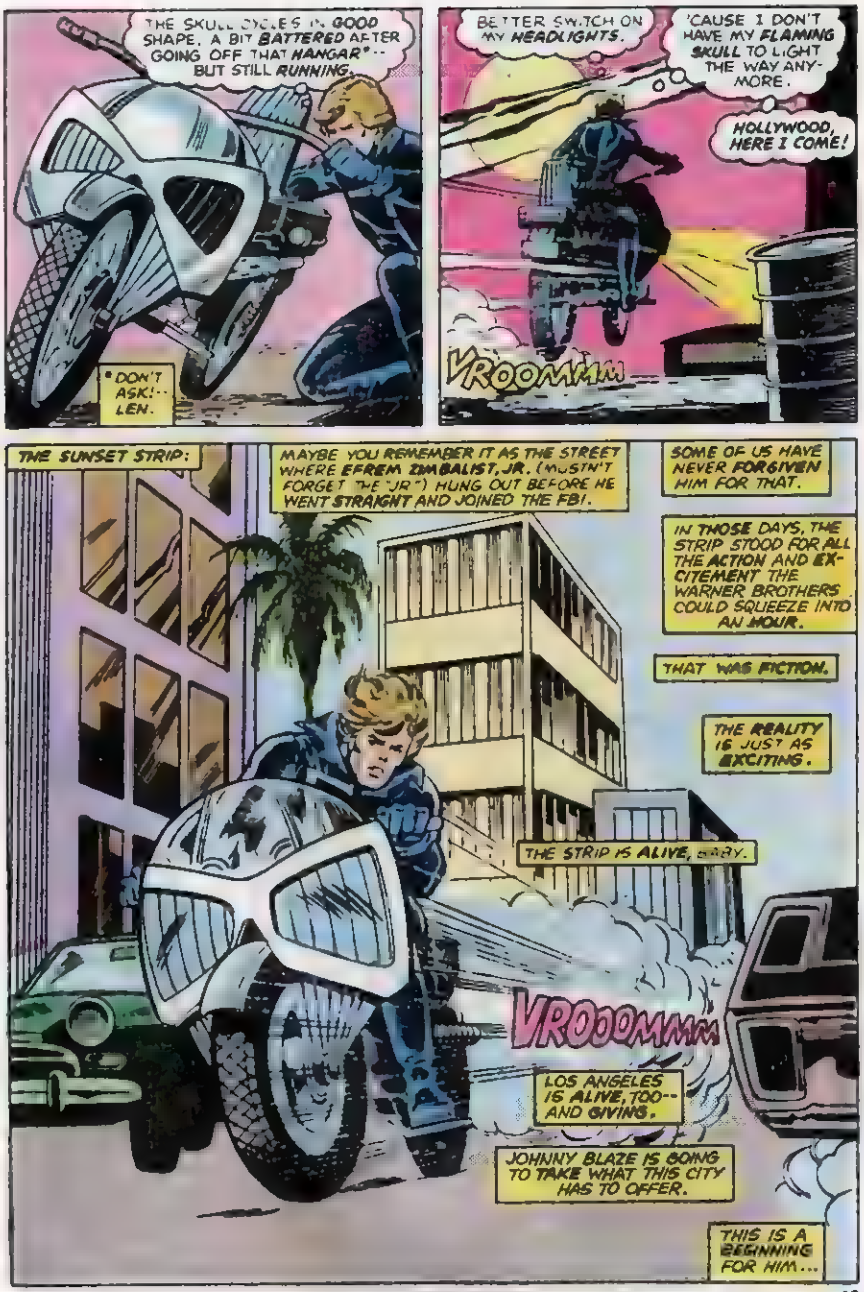
THE SKULL CYCLE IS IN GOOD SHAPE, A BIT BATTERED AFTER GOING OFF THAT HANGAR*-- BUT STILL RUNNING.
*DON'T ASK!-- LEN.
BETTER SWITCH ON MY HEADLIGHTS.
'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE MY FLAMING SKULL TO LIGHT THE WAY ANYMORE.
HOLLYWOOD, HERE I COME!
VROOMMM
THE SUNSET STRIP:
MAYBE YOU REMEMBER IT AS THE STREET WHERE EFREM ZIMBALIST, JR. (MUSTN'T FORGET THE "JR") HUNG OUT BEFORE HE WENT STRAIGHT AND JOINED THE FBI.
SOME OF US HAVE NEVER FORGIVEN HIM FOR THAT.
IN THOSE DAYS, THE STRIP STOOD FOR ALL THE ACTION AND EXCITEMENT THE WARNER BROTHERS COULD SQUEEZE INTO AN HOUR.
THAT WAS FICTION.
THE REALITY IS JUST AS EXCITING.
THE STRIP IS ALIVE, TODAY.
VROOOMMMM
LOS ANGELES IS ALIVE, TOO-- AND GIVING.
JOHNNY BLAZE IS GOING TO TAKE WHAT THIS CITY HAS TO OFFER.
THIS IS A BEGINNING FOR HIM...

CAPTAIN AMERICA #168. "DRUIDWAR"— AND THE ALCHEMOID SHOUTS DEATH.

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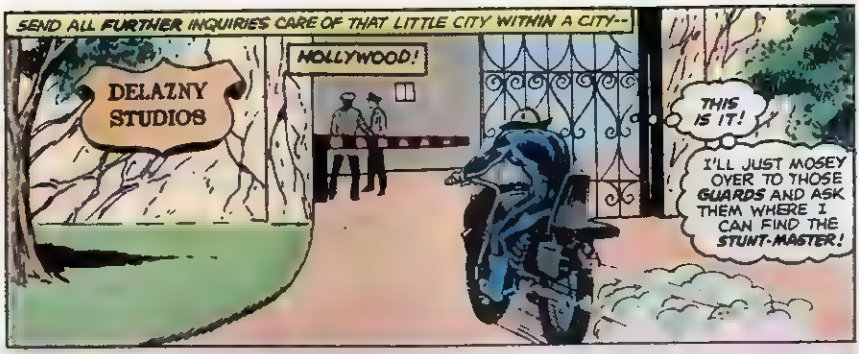
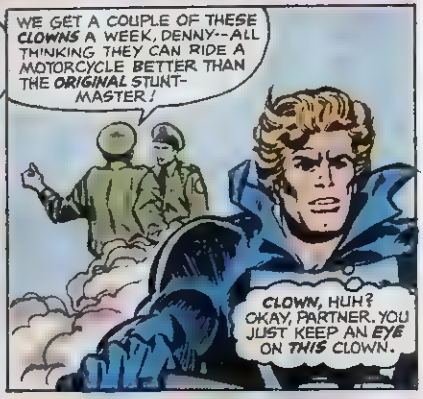
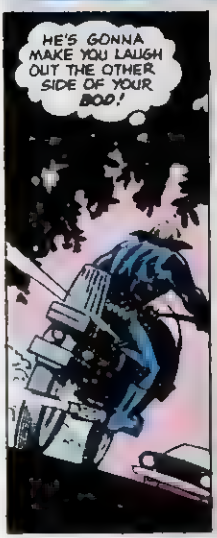
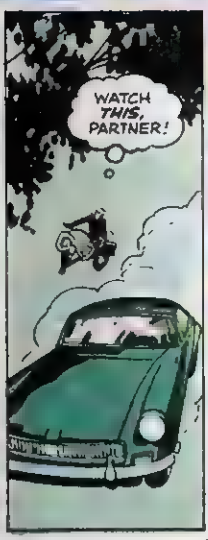

SEND ALL FURTHER INQUIRIES CARE OF THAT LITTLE CITY WITHIN A CITY--
DELAZNY STUDIOS
HOLLYWOOD!
THIS IS IT!
I'LL JUST MOSEY OVER TO THOSE GUARDS AND ASK THEM WHERE I CAN FIND THE STUNT-MASTER!

BUT...
SO YOU WANT TO SEE THE STUNT-MASTER, HUH?
I WANNA SEE THE TAMMY GRIMES SHOW BACK ON THE AIR, BUT IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN EITHER!
BEAT IT, PUNK!


WE GET A COUPLE OF THESE CLOWNS A WEEK, DENNY--ALL THINKING THEY CAN RIDE A MOTORCYCLE BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL STUNT-MASTER!
CLOWN, HUH? OKAY, PARTNER. YOU JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THIS CLOWN.





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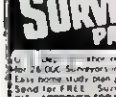

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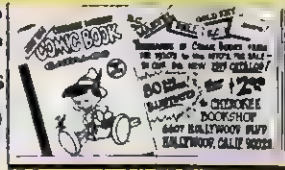

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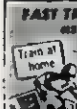

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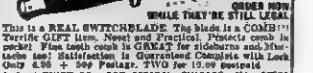

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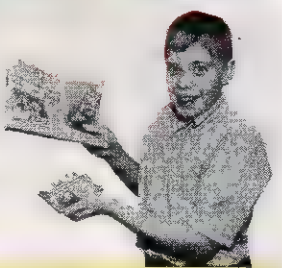

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BRUNT!
KLEONNG!
DENNY
RESERVE A PARKING SPOT FOR MISS GRIMES, WILL YA?
HEY, JOHNNY!
YOU SURE TAKE YOUR SWEET TIME TO MULL OVER A JOB OFFER, FELLA. WHAT YOU BEEN DOING WITH YOURSELF?
JUST TAKING CARE OF A FEW LOOSE ENDS, PAL
HOW'S THE WORLD'S SECOND GREATEST STUNT-RIDER?
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING.
I WANT YOU TO MEET MY CO-STAR KAREN PAGE.
KAREN, JOHNNY BLAZE--HE'S GOING TO BE DOING MY STUNTS FOR ME. THAT'LL MAKE OLD MAN DELAINY HAPPY.
WELCOME TO THE GANG, JOHNNY
IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK THAT MY FEARLESS STAR GET HIS BUTT IN GEAR? COME ON, CUT THE CHATTER!
AND THIS IS "COOT" COLLIER--WHEN HE'S NOT "JUSTTURNING" SMALL ANIMALS, HE'S OUR DIRECTOR.
COOT--THIS IS THE NEW STUNTMAN. WHY NOT HAVE HIM DO THIS NEXT SCENE?

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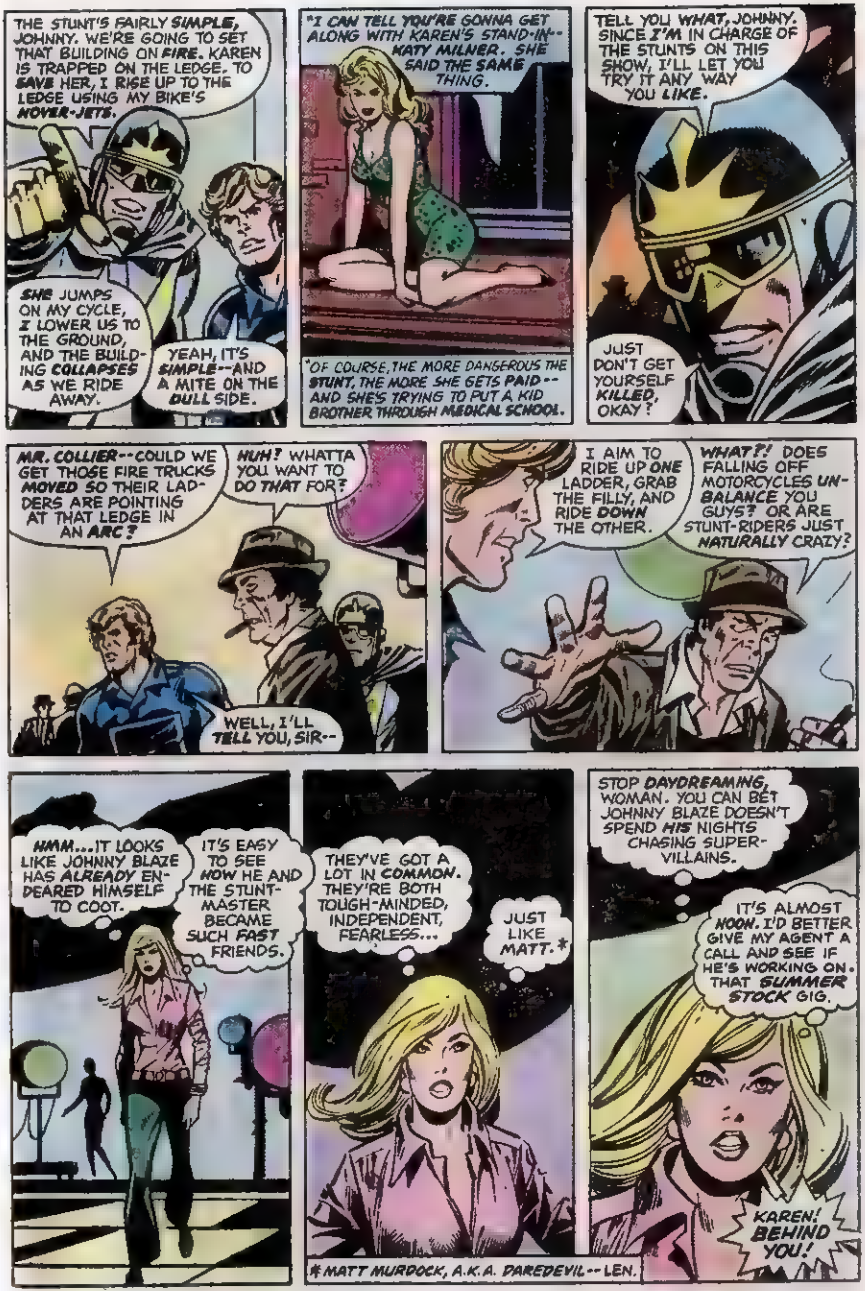
THE STUNT'S FAIRLY SIMPLE, JOHNNY. WE'RE GOING TO SET THAT BUILDING ON FIRE. KAREN IS TRAPPED ON THE LEDGE. TO SAVE HER, I RISE UP TO THE LEDGE USING MY BIKE'S HOVER-JETS.
SHE JUMPS ON MY CYCLE, I LOWER US TO THE GROUND, AND THE BUILDING COLLAPSES AS WE RIDE AWAY.
YEAH, IT'S SIMPLE--AND A MITE ON THE DULL SIDE.
"I CAN TELL YOU'RE GONNA GET ALONG WITH KAREN'S STAND-IN--KATY MILNER. SHE SAID THE SAME THING.
"OF COURSE, THE MORE DANGEROUS THE STUNT, THE MORE SHE GETS PAID--AND SHE'S TRYING TO PUT A KID BROTHER THROUGH MEDICAL SCHOOL.
TELL YOU WHAT, JOHNNY. SINCE I'M IN CHARGE OF THE STUNTS ON THIS SHOW, I'LL LET YOU TRY IT ANY WAY YOU LIKE.
JUST DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED, OKAY?
MR. COLLIER--COULD WE GET THOSE FIRE TRUCKS MOVED SO THEIR LADDERS ARE POINTING AT THAT LEDGE IN AN ARC?
HUH? WHATTA YOU WANT TO DO THAT FOR?
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU, SIR--
I AIM TO RIDE UP ONE LADDER, GRAB THE FILLY, AND RIDE DOWN THE OTHER.
WHAT?! DOES FALLING OFF MOTORCYCLES UNBALANCE YOU GUYS? OR ARE STUNT-RIDERS JUST NATURALLY CRAZY?
HMM...IT LOOKS LIKE JOHNNY BLAZE HAS ALREADY ENDEARED HIMSELF TO COOT.
IT'S EASY TO SEE HOW HE AND THE STUNTMASTER BECAME SUCH FAST FRIENDS.
THEY'VE GOT A LOT IN COMMON. THEY'RE BOTH TOUGH-MINDED, INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS...
JUST LIKE MATT.*
* MATT MURDOCK, A.K.A. DAREDEVIL--LEN.
STOP DAYDREAMING, WOMAN. YOU CAN BET JOHNNY BLAZE DOESN'T SPEND HIS NIGHTS CHASING SUPER-VILLAINS.
IT'S ALMOST NOON. I'D BETTER GIVE MY AGENT A CALL AND SEE IF HE'S WORKING ON THAT SUMMER STOCK GIG.
KAREN! BEHIND YOU!

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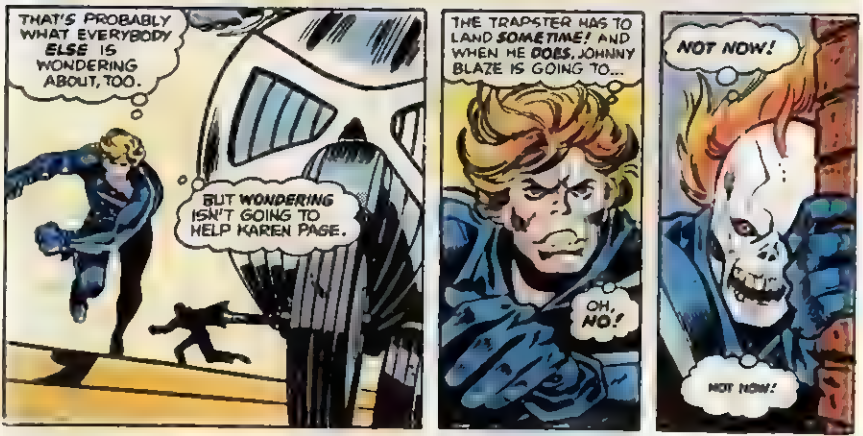
YEAH, BABY--TAKE A LOOK!
I'M THE ALL-NEW TRAPSTER--AND YOU'RE GONNA FLY ME!
MY PARTNERS MAY STILL BE IN JAIL, BUT I'M ON THE LOOSE--
--AND THE ONE MILLION BUCKS YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD IS WORTH IS GONNA KEEP ME LOOSE FOR A LOOOONG TIME!
HEY! YOU WERE A LOT MORE TALKATIVE WHEN YOU WERE WORKING FOR NELSON AND MURDOCK!* WHAT'S THE MATTER--CAN'T A MOVIE STAR TALK TO HER PANTING PUBLIC?
HE JUST CAME OUT OF NOWHERE! THAT THING HE'S RIDING DOESN'T MAKE A SOUND!**
ONE MILLION BUCKS! WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
*WHICH IS WHAT KAREN PAGE WAS DOING WHEN SHE FIRST MET HER ABDUCTOR IN DAREDEVIL # 35--LEN.
**WHICH IS ONE FEATURE THE WINGLESS WIZARD'S ANTI-GRAVITY DISC HAS OVER, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SGT--TONY.


THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE IS WONDERING ABOUT, TOO.
BUT WONDERING ISN'T GOING TO HELP KAREN PAGE.
THE TRAPSTER HAS TO LAND SOMETIME! AND WHEN HE DOES, JOHNNY BLAZE IS GOING TO...
OH, NO!
NOT NOW!
NOT NOW!

IN THE DAMNING FLAMES OF A DARK DIMENSION, DOCTOR STRANGE FACES THE DREAD DORMAMMU!

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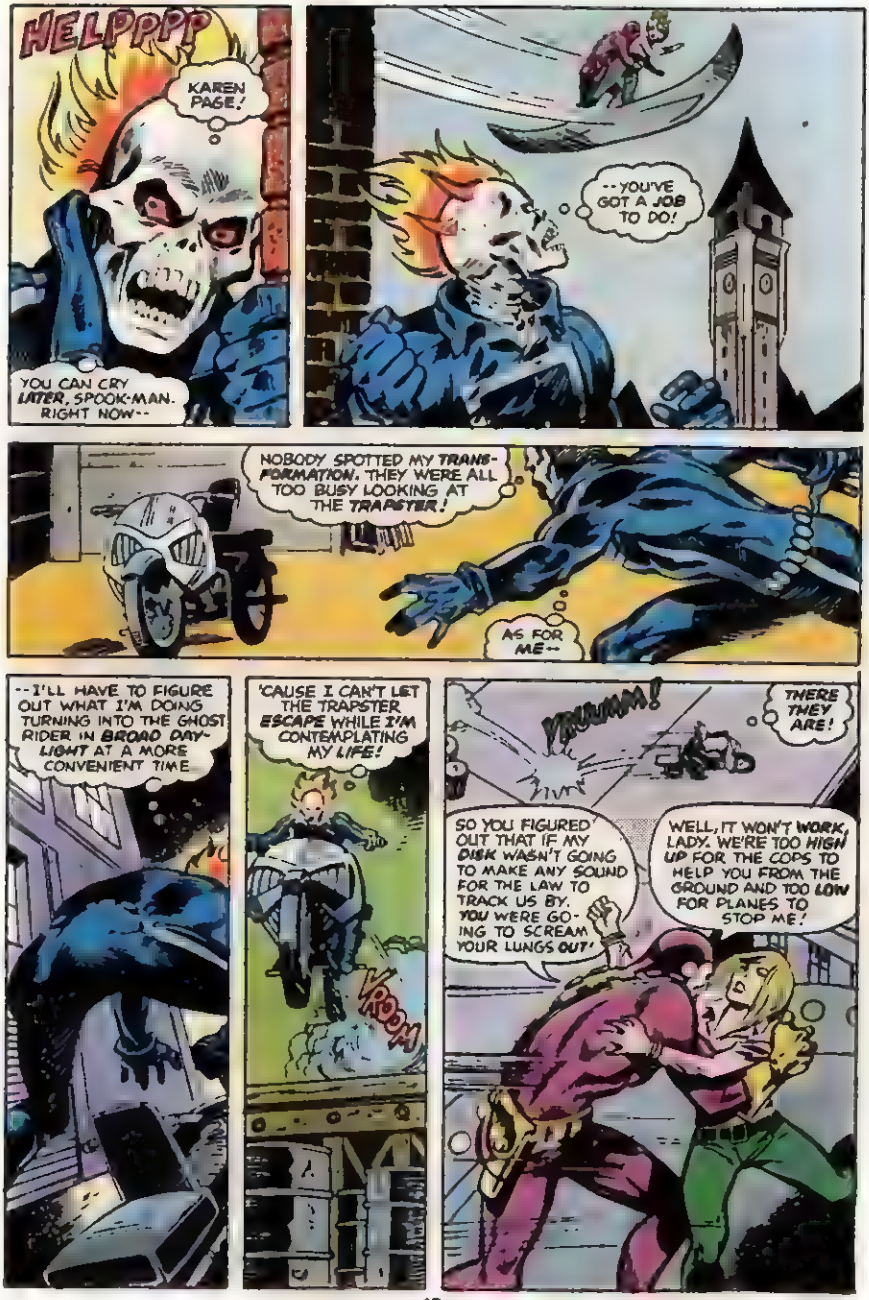
HELPPPP
KAREN PAGE!
YOU CAN CRY LATER, SPOOK-MAN. RIGHT NOW--
-- YOU'VE GOT A JOB TO DO!
NOBODY SPOTTED MY TRANSFORMATION. THEY WERE ALL TOO BUSY LOOKING AT THE TRAPSTER!
AS FOR ME--
--I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M DOING TURNING INTO THE GHOST RIDER IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AT A MORE CONVENIENT TIME.
'CAUSE I CAN'T LET THE TRAPSTER ESCAPE WHILE I'M CONTEMPLATING MY LIFE!
VROOM
VROOMM!
THERE THEY ARE!
SO YOU FIGURED OUT THAT IF MY DISK WASN'T GOING TO MAKE ANY SOUND FOR THE LAW TO TRACK US BY, YOU WERE GOING TO SCREAM YOUR LUNGS OUT!
WELL, IT WON'T WORK, LADY. WE'RE TOO HIGH UP FOR THE COPS TO HELP YOU FROM THE GROUND AND TOO LOW FOR PLANES TO STOP ME!

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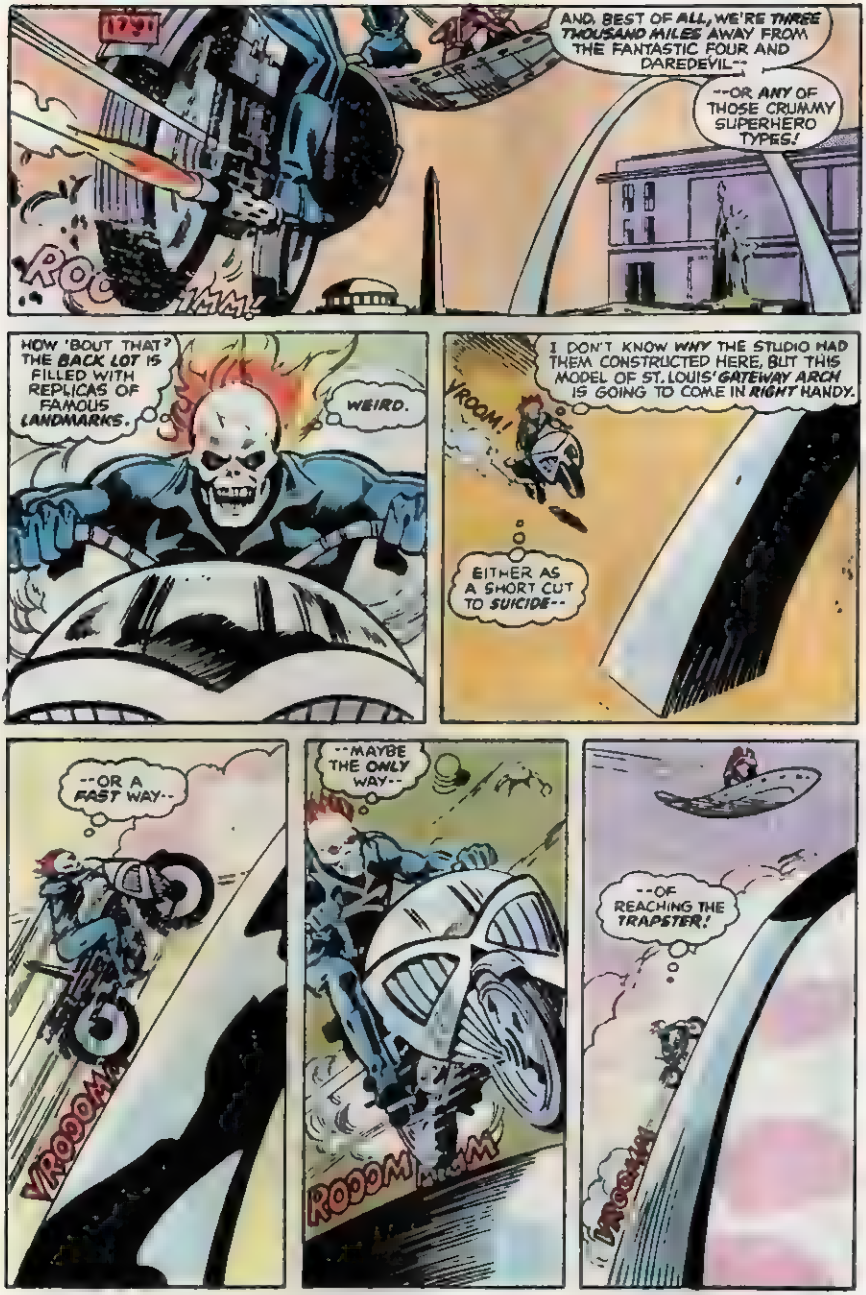
1791
AND, BEST OF ALL, WE'RE THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY FROM THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND DAREDEVIL--
--OR ANY OF THOSE CRUMMY SUPERHERO TYPES!
ROOOOOMMM!
HOW 'BOUT THAT? THE BACK LOT IS FILLED WITH REPLICAS OF FAMOUS LANDMARKS.
WEIRD.
I DON'T KNOW WHY THE STUDIO HAD THEM CONSTRUCTED HERE, BUT THIS MODEL OF ST. LOUIS' GATEWAY ARCH IS GOING TO COME IN RIGHT HANDY.
VROOM!
EITHER AS A SHORT CUT TO SUICIDE--
--OR A FAST WAY--
VROOOOM!
--MAYBE THE ONLY WAY--
ROOOM
--OF REACHING THE TRAPSTER!
VROOOM!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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GHOST WRITERS!

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Change-of-pace-time, pilgrims. The rather unusual three-in-one conclusion of GHOST RIDER #9 elicited so much response from a concerned Marveldom Assembled that we're going to turn this entire page over to your comments on the issue (and excerpts thereof) and forego our usual editorial replies.

Take it away, Ghostophiles!

GHOST RIDER #9 was one of the best issues ever. The script by Tony Isabella was superb. Those three astonishing and unexpected developments—Roxanne Simpson's renunciation of her protection of the Ghost Rider, the loss of some of G.R.'s powers, and Rocky's subsequent separation from Johnny Blaze—should really open many exciting avenues of exploration on Tony's part. For example, without some of his powers, G.R. should rely more on his cycle-riding skill. Since Johnny is a stunt-cyclist, we should see him perform more acrobatic stunts. (Example: the first three panels on page seven.) G.R.'s not having to worry about Roxanne is another plus for the mag. Finally, the introduction of Johnny's "friend" on page 27, was a pleasant surprise.

Jack Frost
Route 3, Box 176-C
West Monroe, La. 71291

The hero who saved Johnny Blaze looked awfully familiar.

Jim Hornby
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Fifteen demerits for the epilogue, Tony. There seems to be an unwritten Marvel Law that says no superhero shall ever get his head completely straight, even if it means the raping of another character's character. Rocky's walking isn't really like her, and G.R.'s acquiescence isn't like him. I see authorial thumborints all over this scene.

Brian Earl Brown
55521 Elder Rd.
Mishawaka, IN

Once more—another Marvel masterpiece. Tony has written what I believe to be the best Ghost Rider story so far. The artwork—fantastic! Jim Mooney really captured the meaning of fear on page one.

Bill Plenge
R.D. #1
Roscoe, N.Y. 12776

GHOST RIDER #9 started out weak, and then ended even weaker! The appearance of the Jesus-freak reject was the worst thing I've ever seen in a Marvel comic. G.R.'s friend's philosophy was just plain stupid. "No man lives his life without contending with you several times, Satan." Every man lives a life "contending" with Satan every day! On a scale of one thru ten, GHOST RIDER #9 gets a negative three.

Ron Cartwright
3330 East 67th Street
Long Beach, Calif. 90805

GHOST RIDER #9 was an issue most welcomed, since I was about to drop this mag from my buying list. Seeing G.R. powerless and Roxanne give in to Satan's lies was something else. But to top it off was the man who resembled the savior of us all (or most of us) coming and doing his thing. Beautiful.

Mark S. Meadows
81 Columbia Street
New York, N.Y. 10002

After muddling through the Ghost Rider's systematic loss of powers, I reach page 27. Oh, no. Satan is about to grasp Johnny Blaze's soul and put an end to both Blaze's misery and mine, when in steps a pseudo-Christ-figure to save the hero. Aaghh! This, gentlemen, is called *deus ex machina*, an ancient device of the theater whereby a god steps in and neatly ties together the jumbled plot threads. Welcome to 1974, people.

Christopher Jarocha
27 S. Pierson Rd.
Maplewood, N.J. 07040

I enjoyed GHOST RIDER #9 more than any other comic this month. G.R. has always been a very depressing book. There was the Devil, but very little evidence of God. As if evil was in control on our world. I hope pages 27 and 30 are signs of things to come. "I am ...a friend." Beautiful.

PMM Neal Meyer
Bickleton, Wa. 99322

And now, a few remarks on GHOST RIDER #10.

With regards to GHOST RIDER #10: it just goes to prove you can't judge a comic book by its cover.

Peter Sanderson
27 Gov. Belcher Lane
Milton, Ma. 02186

Boo! Hiss! And you know why. Reprint!
No further comments.

Christy Kanes
347 S. Westmoreland Ave.
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MIKE POWER RIPS OPEN HIS SUIT AND REVEALS HIS ATOMIC LIMBS AND ACTIVATES HIS ATOMIC EYE.
BECAUSE I'M THE ATOMIC MAN!!
WHAT THE? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!!!
NOBODY HAS. YOU SEE, I JUST WOULDN'T SETTLE FOR THE DISABLED LIMBS I WAS BORN WITH AND SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE CREATING FANTASTIC NEW ATOMIC PARTS FOR MY BODY!!!
LET'S TEST 'EM
100 MPH
200 MPH
WITH MY ATOMIC LEG I CAN RUN 200 MILES PER HOUR!!!
MY ATOMIC ARM CAN LIFT 10,000 POUNDS!!!
10,000 lbs
HE'LL BREAK THE MACHINE!!
MY ATOMIC EYE CAN SEE THROUGH 6 FEET OF SOLID STEEL!!!
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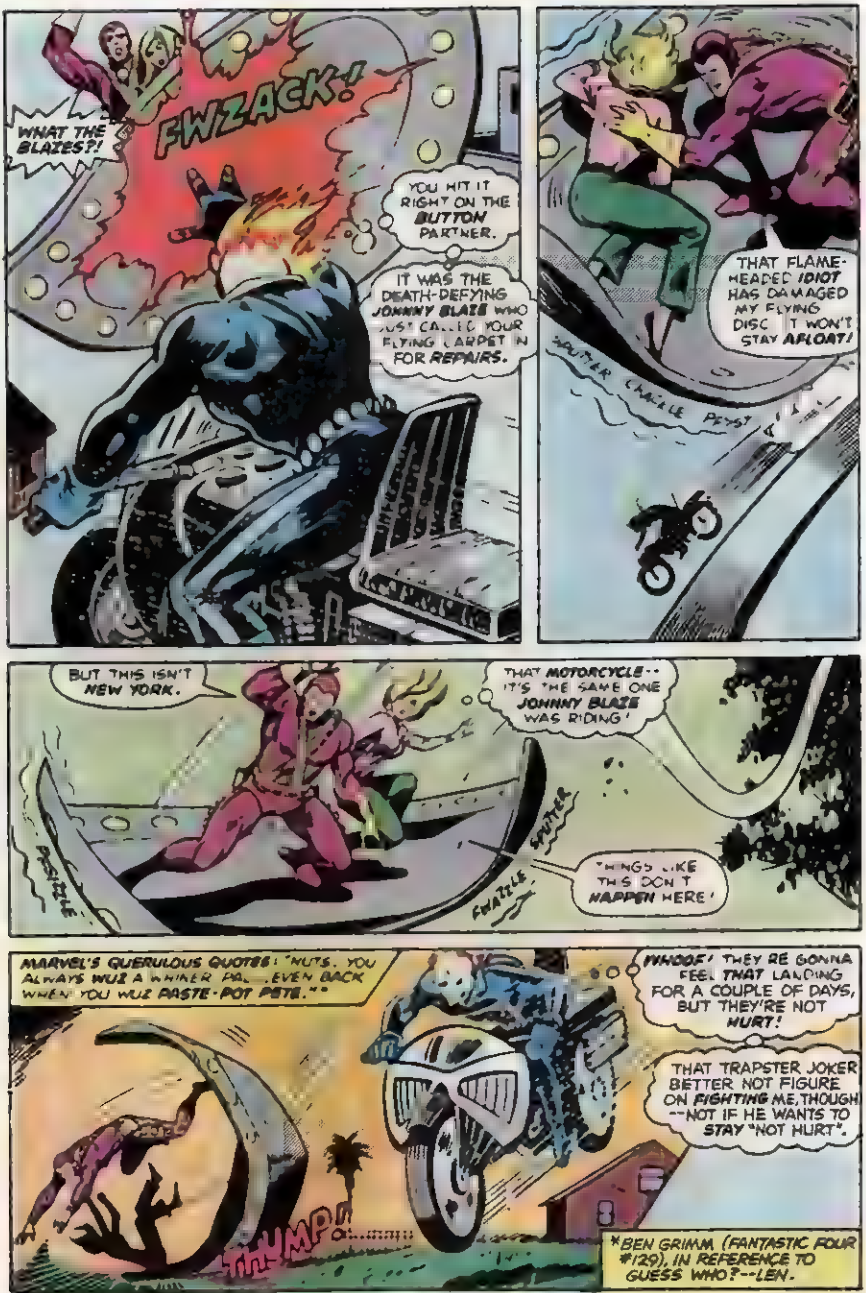
WHAT THE BLAZES?!
FWZACK!
YOU HIT IT RIGHT ON THE BUTTON PARTNER.
IT WAS THE DEATH-DEFYING JOHNNY BLAZE WHO JUST CALLED YOUR FLYING CARPET IN FOR REPAIRS.
THAT FLAME-HEADED IDIOT HAS DAMAGED MY FLYING DISC ... IT WON'T STAY AFLOAT!
SPUTTER CHUGGLE PFFST
BUT THIS ISN'T NEW YORK.
THAT MOTORCYCLE-- IT'S THE SAME ONE JOHNNY BLAZE WAS RIDING!
SPUTTER
PSSSZZLE
CHUGGLE
THINGS LIKE THIS DON'T HAPPEN HERE!
MARVEL'S QUERULOUS QUOTES: "NUTS. YOU ALWAYS WUZ A WHINER PAL ... EVEN BACK WHEN YOU WUZ PASTE-POT PETE."
WHOOF! THEY'RE GONNA FEEL THAT LANDING FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, BUT THEY'RE NOT HURT!
THAT TRAPSTER JOKER BETTER NOT FIGURE ON FIGHTING ME, THOUGH --NOT IF HE WANTS TO STAY "NOT HURT".
THUMP!!
*BEN GRIMM (FANTASTIC FOUR #129). IN REFERENCE TO GUESS WHO?--LEN.

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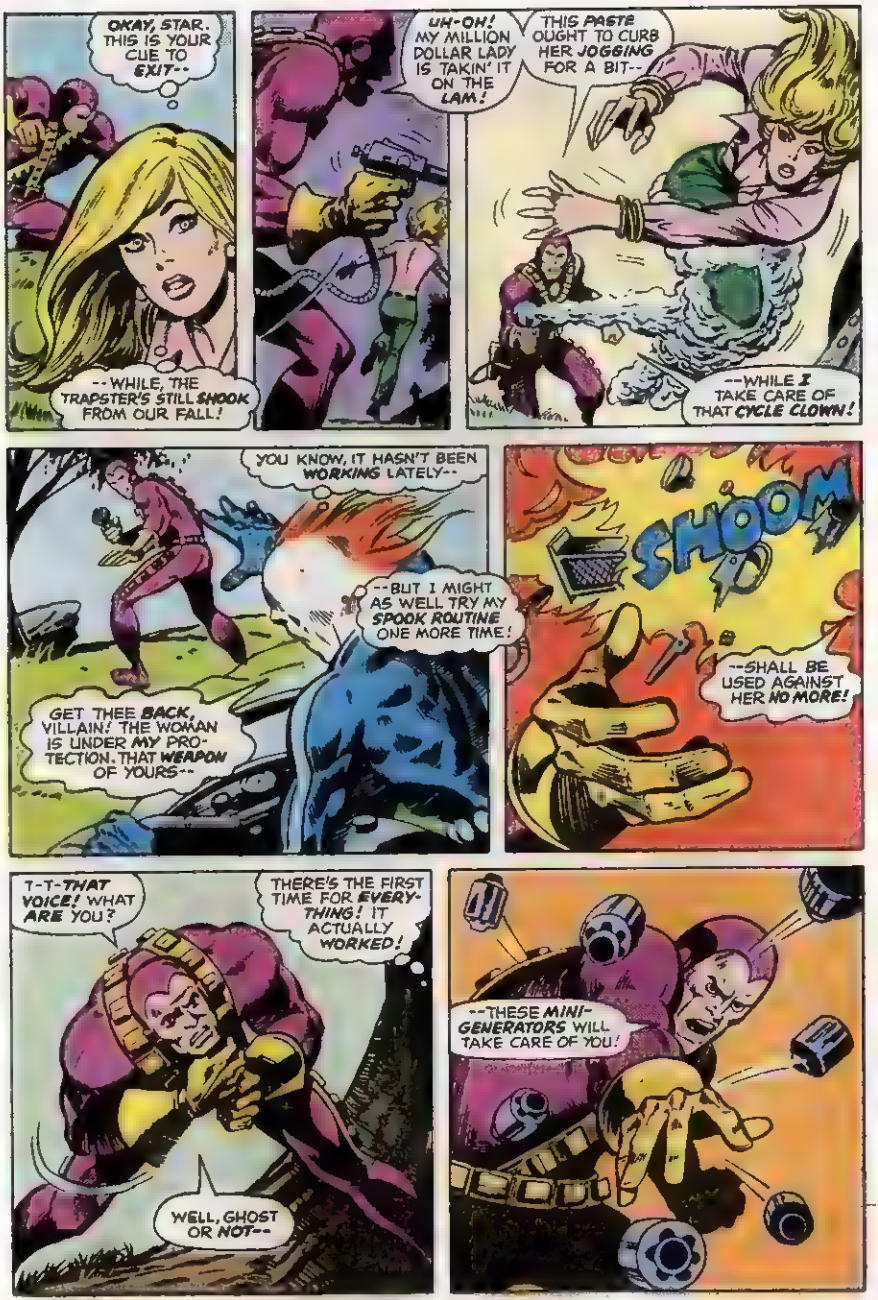
OKAY, STAR. THIS IS YOUR CUE TO EXIT--
--WHILE, THE TRAPSTER'S STILL SHOOK FROM OUR FALL!
UH-OH! MY MILLION DOLLAR LADY IS TAKIN' IT ON THE LAM!
THIS PASTE OUGHT TO CURB HER JOGGING FOR A BIT--
--WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THAT CYCLE CLOWN!
YOU KNOW, IT HASN'T BEEN WORKING LATELY--
--BUT I MIGHT AS WELL TRY MY SPOOK ROUTINE ONE MORE TIME!
GET THEE BACK, VILLAIN! THE WOMAN IS UNDER MY PROTECTION. THAT WEAPON OF YOURS--
SHOOM
--SHALL BE USED AGAINST HER NO MORE!
T-T-THAT VOICE! WHAT ARE YOU?
THERE'S THE FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING! IT ACTUALLY WORKED!
WELL, GHOST OR NOT--
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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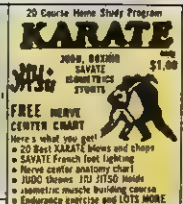

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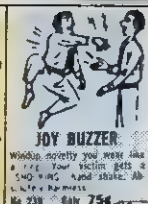
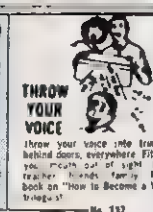


JOY BUZZER
Wonder novelty you were like a toy. Your victim gets a SHOCKING hand shake. Ab... safe to harmless



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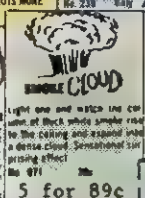

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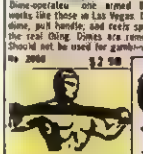

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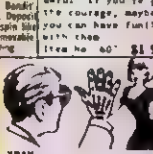

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YEAH, IT WORKED ALL RIGHT! I SCARED HIM INTO USING WEAPONS THAT WERE PROBABLY DESIGNED TO WIPE OUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
CKCLEZ
FRAP
ZRAZ!
YOU'RE DUMB, BLAZE
ZA!
THESE THINGS ARE SHOOTING OFF ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO CHARGE A BROIL AN ELEPHANT!
ZAKK!
KRAZ
HANG IN THERE, SKULL-CYCLE!
WE'VE GOT SOME FANCY STEPPIN' TO DO!
SZZAK!
FRAK!
FRAZZ
ZZAKK!
SCREECH!
THE WIZARD MIGHT BE THE SCIENTIFIC BRAINS BEHIND THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR--BUT EVEN HE DOESN'T HAVE MY GENIUS FOR GADGETRY!
WHILE THE CYCLE SPOOK DODGES MY MINI-GENERATORS
--I CAN CONSTRUCT A MORE DIRECT DE TERRENT--
--THE SONIC SMASHER!
WHROM!
UGHH!

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YOU'VE KILLED HIM!
HEY! IF HE WASN'T ALREADY DEAD, THAT SURE DIDN'T DO THE JOB!
NOW, COME ON! WE'RE GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!
NOT SO FAST, MORTAL--
--WE STILL HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, MISTER!
JOHNNY! LOOK OUT!
FA-WHOOM!
YRRGH!
THE LADY CALLED YOU BY NAME, FLAME-FACE--
--WHICH MEANS YOU'RE NOT THE HAUNT YOU'VE BEEN MAKIN' OUT TO BE!
NOBODY PLAYS THE TRAPSTER FOR A FOOL, FELLA.
SO EVEN IF YOU AREN'T A SPOOK NOW--
--MY GRAVITY INTENSIFIER WILL GET YOU THERE, BUT QUICK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Yep, it's true—there definitely will be a sequel to the ol' best-selling ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS! That cheering you hear is from your local book store! And, in answer to the thousands of requests (some guy named Hymie Thousands happened to ask), these are the characters that will be featured in our own inimitable and sometimes incomprehensible style: Iron Man! Daredevil! X-Men! Avengers! Captain America! Sub-Mariner! Human Torch! Sgt. Fury! Plus another unexpected sensation whom we're saving as the surprise of the year! The only problem is, we haven't figured out a title for the book yet. Dunno whether to call it MORE ORIGINS, or SON OF ORIGINS, or what? If you've any suggestions, don't be bashful. And if you haven't bought the original ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS yet, better not delay too long. No telling how many sequels will be published, and you won't wanna be the only one in town without a full set! But now it's culture time. Wouldja believe that yours truly set some kinda record recently by speaking at five colleges in as many days! Yep, I've got a hunch that ol' Michigan State U, Augustana, Ferris State, and the University of Wisconsin won't ever be the same, to say nothing of Montreal's George Williams College. The only thing I can't figure out is why, after all this campus-hopping, Spidey hasn't gotten his doctorate yet! Or, in the words of Honest Irv Forbush, "How soon they forget"! And now, I'll leave you with this age-old riddle which has stumped wise men and sages since time immemorial. Who feeds the elephants at Monte Python's flying circus? And while you've guessing, remember—vive la bagatelle!

Excelsior

Stan

ITEM! Hang on to your FOOMbership card, Faithful One, 'cause your blushing Bullpen is about to let you in on the most long-awaited event since Judy Garland took that first fateful step over the rainbow. Almost before you could expect it, your hot-blooded House of Ideas will be unleashing a brand-new, pulse-pounding magazine destined to become one of the biggest and brightest stars in the hit-studded Marvel heavens, our own artful adaptation of one of the greatest children's fantasy series of all time—"THE WIZARD OF OZ"! Everyone here at Mad. Ave. is so proud of our peerless project that we've made sure only the best of the Bullpen will produce it; so plaudits to Rascally ROY THOMAS and Big JOHN BUSCEMA for corralling the most sought-after assignment to come down the pike in ages, thus gaining a chance to prove that brawny, bold barbarians aren't the only wonderment they're more than capable of producing. We can't tell you exactly *when* this Marvel Munchkin Masterwork will be hitting your newsstands, or its size and shape (we don't want the Wicked Witch of the West to find out), but you can bet your ruby slippers that it'll be well worth waiting for! So if you've ever wondered what would happen if the madness of Marvel joined forces with the genius of L. FRANK BAUM, this is your chance to find out! Don't miss it, Marvelite—you know how angry Toto gets!

ITEM! It seems congratulations are in order for the remarkable Mr. Buscema in more ways than one. Not only has he copped the juiciest artistic plum in Marveldom's plum-filled history, but even, as we pen these imperishable words, Joltin' John has embarked upon a *new* career—as the head of his very own ART SCHOOL! If you've ever dreamed of learning at the side of one of comicdom's all-time greats, here's your chance! Just keep your eyes glued to our cataclysmic classified ad pages for the next few months to learn all the details, and you may become one of the privileged ones to enroll in John's sensational course! We're counting on Mr. Buscema to start turning out the most talented new artists of all—and *you* could be one of them! 'Nuff Said!

ITEM! While we're on the subject of congratulations, let's hear it for Artful ARCHIE GOODWIN, who's returning to the fold after far too long an absence, to replace Dauntless DON McGREGOR as the erudite Editor of several of Marvel's block-busting black-and-white magazines. Archie will be controlling the direction of such various and sundry items as PLANET OF THE APES, DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU, VAMPIRE TALES, and others. He may even turn out a comics script or two, if he can find a few spare minutes between his editorial chores and his scripting duties on the syndicated SECRET AGENT CORRIGAN newspaper strip. Don't worry about the whereabouts of Dauntless Don, by the way. Mr. McGregor is still very much with us, turning out scripts for the Black Panther in JUNGLE ACTION, Killraven in AMAZING ADVENTURES, and his newest acquisition, LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN, a mag begun, just a few years back, by Artful Archie himself! (There's a note of *irony* in there somewhere, but don't ask *us* what it is!) In the meanwhile, welcome back, Arch—it's good to have you aboard!

ITEM! Pardon us for blushing, but the nominations for the 1974 SHAZAM AWARDS have just been announced by the ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK ARTS, and mighty Marvel walked away with so many of the various categories that it's almost embarrassing. Just take a gander for yourself—and you'll see what we mean! Best Penciller, Humor Division: DAN DeCARLO, FRANK ROBERGE, MARIE SEVERIN, and GEORGE WILDMAN. Best Inker, Humor Division: RUDY LAPICK, RALPH REESE FRANK ROBERGE, MARIE SEVERIN, and GEORGE WILDMAN. Best Writer, Humor Division: NICK CUTI, STEVE GERBER, JOE GILL, and STEVE SKEATES. Best Penciller, Dramatic Division: JOHN BUSCEMA GENE COLAN, and BERNI WRIGHTSON. Best Inker, Dramatic Division: FRANK GIACOIA, DICK GIORDANO, TOM PALMER, and JOE SINNOTT. Best Writer, Dramatic Division: STEVE GERBER, ARCHIE GOODWIN, and ROY THOMAS. (Seems the Bullpen vertually *swept* the dramatic catagories, don't it?) Best Letterer: JOHN COSTANZA, ANNETTE KAWECKI, GASPAR SALADINO, and ARTIE SIMEK. Best Colorist: MARIE SEVERIN, GLYNIS WEIN, and TATJANA WOOD. Superior Achievement by an Individual: BARRY SMITH, ROY THOMAS, and JIM STARLIN. Best Continuing Feature: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, TOMB OF DRACULA, and MAN-THING. Best Individual Story, "Gotterdammerung," "Night of the Stalker," and "Red Nails." Best Individual Short Story "Burma Sky," "Cathedral Perilous," and "Jenifer." Best Humor Story: "The Boob Rube Story," "The ECCH-orcist," "Kaspar the Dead Baby," and "Police Gory Story." (Sounds like the contents page from an issue of CRAZY magazine!) Outstanding New Talent: PAUL GULACY, AL MILGROM, ANNETTE KAWECKI and CRAIG RUSSELL. Hall of fame: JACK KIRBY, ALEX TOTH, and WALLY WOOD. We'll give you a complete rundown of the wistful winners in just a few months, so keep watchin', hear?

ITEM! A tip of the slightly-battered Marvel bowler to the members of the prestigious PITTSBURGH COMIX CLUB for the rousing reception they gave Powerhouse PAUL GULACY and Guest of Honor, Lively LEN WEIN, at the first annual PITTCON, held the home of the Super Bowl Steelers just a few weeks past. The interest, enthusiasm, and gracious hospitality shown Len and Paul by Blushing BEN PONDEXTER and the rest of the gang will not soon be forgotten. Muchas Gracias, Pittsburgh—and keep those homefires burning!

ITEM! We've got just about enough room left to tell you we've got no more room left for this go-round! See ya in thirty!

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THE MESSAGE REVEALS A PLOT FOR A BIG BLOW UP--THE BIGGEST YET!
MUST BE AN ATTACK ON FORT KNOX!
NOPE! THAT'S NOT IT.
EITHER WAY, I'LL HAVE TO SET A TRAP!
MEANWHILE...
HAH! I'LL BLOW MYSELF A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN SO BIG, IT'LL FLOOD THE WORLD!
NITRO! LOOK! CAPTAIN MARVEL IS ESCORTING THAT SHIP!
MUST BE CARRYING VALUABLE CARGO! LET'S FOLLOW HIM FIRST!
LOOK! THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN IS OPENING UP!
AND MARVEL'S TURNING BACK--THE SHIP WAS PROBABLY ON REMOTE CONTROL!
LET'S CAPTURE THAT SHIP AND GET THE TREASURE!
HA! THEY'RE TAKING THE BAIT!
LATER INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN
MMM- WE'VE GOT ENOUGH HOSTESS TWINKIES TO LAST A MONTH
WOW! GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE WITH CREAMY FILLING INSIDE!
THAT WILL KEEP NITRO BUSY FOR A WHILE! I KNEW HE'D GET A BIG BANG OUT OF HOSTESS TWINKIES!
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MMM-
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GOOD LORD!
IT'S ACTUALLY PUSHING ME INTO THE GROUND!
BUT IF I'M GOING DOWN UNDER--
--HE'S COMING WITH ME!
NO!
IF THE INTENSIFIER HITS THE GROUND--
--ITS EFFECTS WILL BE NEUTRALIZED!
YOUR DEVICE'S OPERATING STATUS IS THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES, TRAPSTER!
CUT THE GHOST ROUTINE, MISTER!
ZOK!
IT'S NOT GONNA HELP YOU!
THIS LITTLE BABY ISN'T THE DEADLIEST GADGET I CAN CONSTRUCT IN A FLASH--
--BUT IT'LL DO, IT'LL DO!
MOVE IT, COWBOY! YOU'VE ONLY GOT TIME FOR ONE QUICK BLAST OF--
--HELLFIRE!
FWOOSH!
MY ANTI-GRAVITY DISC!
YOU BLASTED MY ANTI-GRAVITY DISC!

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NOOOOOOOOOOOO
WOW! HE'S CAREENING OUT OF CONTROL LIKE A BALLOON THAT'S LOSING ITS AIR!
BY THE TIME THE COPS CATCH HIM, HE'LL BE GLAD TO GO BACK TO JAIL!
WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO ME--WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
AM I GOING TO REMAIN THE GHOST RIDER OR--
NOPE! I CAN FEEL MYSELF CHANGING BACK ALREADY...
NOW THAT THE TRAPSTER'S BEEN DEFEATED!
MAYBE THAT'S THE NEW ANGLE. MAYBE I'M GOING TO TURN INTO THE GHOST RIDER WHENEVER THERE'S DANGER AROUND. GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.
IN THE MEANTIME...
I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THIS STUFF IN A MINUTE, MISS PAGE.
CALL ME KAREN.
ERR, JOHNNY... I SAW YOU... CHANGE BACK THERE.
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
MIRRORS.
OH.
I ALWAYS DID ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS. ANYWAY...
THANKS.
next issue: A SPECTER STALKS THE SOUNDSTAGE!
PLUS: MORE ON KAREN'S MILLION-DOLLAR MYSTERY!

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